In the Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended)   A method for checking the authenticity of a manager application in a telecommunications management network operating system (TMN-OS), comprising:

transmitting a communication-protocol-specific authentication data from the manager application via a telecommunication management network (TMN) to a network element while handling a communication protocol, the communication protocol-specific authentication data used by the network element to check the authenticity of the manager application; and

checking the authenticity of the manager application by comparing the communication protocol-specific authentication data with predetermined authentication data, wherein

authentication checking is carried out centrally in an authenticity checking device for various communication protocols, and

authentication data for the communication protocols used are stored centrally in an authentication databank.

2. (Amended)   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

managing the central authentication databank by a dedicated communication protocol.

3. (Amended)   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communication protocols are a Q3, FTAM, FTP or MML protocol.

4. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein authentication checking for each communication protocol is carried out centrally in the authenticity checking device using different authentication types.

5. (Amended) A network element in a telecommunications network, the network element managed by a telecommunications management network operating system (TMN-OS) via a telecommunications management network (TMN), comprising:

at least one agent application for receiving communication-protocol-specific authentication data via the TMN from an associated manager application in the TMN-OS, the authentication data used to check the authenticity of the associated manager application; and

an authenticity checking device to receive the communication protocol-specific authentication data from the agent application and to check the authenticity of the manager application by comparing the communication protocol-specific authentication data with predetermined authentication data, wherein

the authenticity checking device carries out the authentication checking centrally for various communication protocols, and

the authentication data for the communication protocols used are stored centrally in an authentication databank.

6. (Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the network element has a management device which manages the central authentication databank.

7. (Amended)   The network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein the management

device is coupled to the TMN via a dedicated agent application and is controlled by the TMN-

OS.

In the Abstract:

Please replace the original Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached herewith.